Himachal Pradesh recently reported that drought situation was experienced during Rabi 2005-06 due to long dry spell and submitted a Memorandum seeking assistance from NCCF. An Inter Ministerial Central Team has recently visited the State far assessment of the situation and requirements of Central assistance.

For Rajasthan, provision of cash assistance in lieu of allocation of wheat, for payment of wages for labourers employed on drought relief works during May and June, 2006 is under consideration.

Average land of farmers

†2270. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent farmers are such in the country who are having 1.41 hectare average land;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these families are earning their livelihood by cultivating the said land;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government; and

(e) the assessment with regard to maximum and minimum annual income earned by cultivating the said land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per Agriculture Census 1995-96, the percentage of operational holdings having 1.42 hectare of average land is 80.31.

(b) to (d) The families operating such holdings earn their livelihood by cultivating their land and also by undertaking allied activities like dairying, poultry rearing, wage earning, non-farm business; etc.

(e) The annual income of the farmer households from cultivation was in the range from Rs. 4032.00 in the State of Orissa to Rs. 33864.00 in the State of Punjab during 2002-03.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.